

STANHOPE

Urban Sanitary District.

Annual * Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1905.

STANHOPE :

J. HENDERSON, Agent Printer, Post Office,

1906.

To the Stanhope Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1905.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Estimated Population,	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.	Phtisis Death Rate.	Respiratory Diseases Death Rate.
1905.	1970	24.87	16.24	1.52	124	3.04	1.02
Averages for years 1895-1904	1964	26.61	14.82	1.69	76	2.15	2.39
County Rates for 1905	34.4	17.4	2.37	159	1.00	3.16	

During the year there were 41 deaths registered, 21 of which were males and 20 females. Nine of these died in the Workhouse, two belonging to Stanhope. Two patients died in the Sanatorium, both of Sunderland. This leaves 32 for the district, a death rate of 16.24 per 1,000.

The following are the ages at death:—Under one year, 6; one and under five, 0; five and under fifteen, 2; fifteen and under twenty-five, 4; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 12; sixty-five and over, 17.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE caused three deaths, two from Diphtheria, and one from Whooping Cough—1.57 per 1,000.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Under one year, the deaths were due to Pneumonia, Convulsions (inquest), Intestinal Hemorrhage, Debility from Birth, Inanition, and Whooping Cough, a total of 6—a rate of 122 per 1,000 births.

PHTHISIS caused 6 deaths—a rate of 3.04 per 1,000.

OTHER LUNG DISEASES caused 2 deaths, both due to Pneumonia—a rate of 1.01 per 1,000.

BIRTHS. During the year the births of 24 males and 25 females were registered—a total of 49—a birth rate of 24.87 per 1,000 compared with last 10 years average of 26.61, and a County rate of 34.4.

Tables I, II, III, IV, are attached.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Up to the end of September only two cases were notified—one of Erysipelas and one of Enteric Fever, but from October 20th, other 43 cases were notified, including one of Erysipelas, 2 of Scarlet Fever, and 40 of Diphtheria.

WHOOPING COUGH was epidemic in July and August, and caused one death—a child a month old.

DIARRHŒA was slightly epidemic in August, but caused no deaths.

TYPHOID FEVER. One case was notified in May, and was probably infected from the emptying of a very defective privy ashpit, which was at once condemned and has been replaced by proper ashpit with W.C.

DIPHTHERIA. Seven cases were notified in October, 12 in November, and 21 in December. The first cases occurred in children attending the Council School which was closed for one month from Nov. 1st. Scattered cases appeared all over the district till the middle of December, accounting for 15 cases when a fresh outbreak occurred amongst the Barrington School Children. This school was closed from Dec. 21st, till Jan. 14th, 1906. The disease was with a few exceptions of a very mild type. Every case was treated with antitoxin and only two died from the disease.

Special reports were presented to your Council on two occasions—Nov. 13th, 1905, and Jan. 5th, 1906. In the second report, I made the following suggestions.

(1). That printed instructions as to Infectious Diseases be supplied by your Council to all houses where infectious disease occurs.

(2). That steps be taken to secure proper means of isolation for the future. If the earlier cases had been properly isolated the extensive spread of the disease would have probably been prevented.

(3). That for the present your Council undertake the disinfection of houses; and, by arrangement with the Education Authority, the Schools.

(4). That your Council advise those responsible for Sunday Schools and Children's Meetings that such meetings be stopped for so long as the Day Schools are closed.

(5). The consideration of some means for the disinfection of clothing, etc., belonging to infected rooms, by combining with the R.D.C. to have a moveable Steam Disinfector.

The disease undoubtedly spread through the schools in the first instance and sequence cases occurred through the impossibility of isolation in 2 and 3 roomed houses in large families.

SCARLET FEVER. One case was notified on Dec. 8th.—a boy who had Diphtheria three weeks previously. The second case was notified on Dec. 30th.—a girl who had just returned from service.

TUBERCULAR DISEASE. Six cases died from Pulmonary Phthisis, a rate of 3.04 per 1,000. In four of these, previous cases had occurred in the same family. House disinfection was carried out in every case.

I would again urge the necessity of adopting some method of notification of Tubercular cases, which really ought to be made compulsory, in order that the Sanitary Authority may safeguard the other members of the family, and the community at large, by stringent rules as to disposal of Infective Material, and penalties for promiscuous spitting.

GENERAL SANITATION.

WATER SUPPLY. There is still a good and plentiful supply of pure water free from any possible risk of contamination. There are many deficient taps in the district entailing much unnecessary waste.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION. Five new houses have been built by the Co-Operative Society in Paragon Street, and two by Mr. Parker in Rose Terrace.

PUBLIC SCAVENGING continues to be carried out satisfactorily.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES have been inspected and found uniformly clean. In one, improvements in the flooring were recommended and carried out. Meat is always of best quality.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. In the only one in the district the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

INSPECTIONS AND RESULTS. Thirteen informal notices were served mainly for defective yard conditions, e.g. paving, drainage, and ashpits. All were attended to.

One formal notice was given for a blocked drain and attended to.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

1. One privy converted into W.C. and four into ash-closets.
2. Eight houses in Cross Hill have had their ashpits completed.
3. Five new houses have been built.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

1. Some means of isolating Infectious cases.
2. Better access to all back premises to facilitate Public Scavenging.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. GRAY.

March 10th, 1906.

